

1 1. In a computer system operatively coupled to a network and capable of executing
2 a communication process for sending and receiving electronic mail documents, a
3 method comprising:

- 4 (A) creating a shadow document from an original document;
5 (B) identifying one of a parent and child document of the original document
6 and storing a reference thereto in the shadow document; and
7 (C) storing the shadow document in memory.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein (A) further comprises:

- 2 (A1) parsing the original document for selected of the logistical data.

3 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the logistical data comprises any of sender,
4 receiver, original size, subject, date, carbon copies of the original document.

5 4. The method of claim 1 wherein (A) further comprises:

- 6 (A1) filtering the original document for selected content.

7 5. The method of claim 2 wherein the shadow document further comprises selected
8 data from the content of the original document.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the shadow document is created upon
2 transmission of an original document to the communication process.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the shadow document is created upon the
2 sending of an original document by the communication process.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the shadow document is created upon the receipt
2 of a request to delete the original document by the communication process.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein a shadow document for an electronic mail
2 message further comprises a reference to one of the original content and original
3 attachments of the electronic mail message.

1 10. A computer program product for use with a computer system operatively coupled
2 to a network and capable of executing a communication process for sending and
3 receiving electronic mail documents, the computer program product comprising a
4 computer useable medium having embodied therein program code comprising:

- 5 (A) program code for creating a shadow document from an original document;
- 6 (B) program code for identifying one of a parent and child document of the
7 original document; and
- 8 (C) program code for storing the shadow document in memory.

1 11. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave for use with a computer
2 system operatively coupled to a network and capable of executing a communication
3 process for sending and receiving electronic mail documents, the computer data signal
4 comprising:

- 5 (A) program code for creating a shadow document from an original document;
- 6 (B) program code for identifying one of a parent and child document of the
7 original document; and
- 8 (C) program code for storing the shadow document in memory.

1 12. An apparatus for use with a computer system operatively coupled to a network
2 and capable of executing a communication process for sending and receiving electronic
3 mail documents, the apparatus comprising:

- 4 (A) program logic for creating a shadow document from an original document;

5 (B) program logic for identifying one of a parent and child document of the
6 original document; and

7 (C) program logic for storing the shadow document in memory.

1 13. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2 (D) presenting graphical representations of a plurality of documents in a
3 manner which indicates relationships among the documents.

1 14. The method of claim 13 wherein at least one of the plurality of presented
2 documents is an original document.

1 15. The method of claim 13 wherein at least one of the plurality of presented
2 documents is a shadow document.

1 16. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2 (E) resolving the reference in a shadow document to one of the parent and
3 child document; and

4 (F) maintaining in memory data identifying a plurality of shadow documents
5 and any parent and child documents thereof.

1 17. The method of claim 13 wherein (D) comprises:

2 (D1) presenting the organized plurality of shadow documents with graphical
3 representations in a parallel tree arrangement.

1 18. In a computer system operatively coupled to a network and capable of executing
2 a communication process for sending and receiving electronic mail documents, a
3 method comprising:

4 (A) creating a shadow document from an original document upon sending of
5 the original document by the communication process;

- 6 (B) identifying one of a parent and child document of the sent original
7 document and storing a reference thereto in the shadow document;
8 (C) creating a shadow document from an original document received from
9 another communication process;
10 (D) identifying one of a parent and child document of the received original
11 document and storing a reference thereto in the shadow document; and
12 (E) storing the shadow documents in memory.

1 19. The method of claim 18 further comprising:

2 (F) resolving the reference in a shadow document to one of the parent and
3 child document; and

4 (G) maintaining data identifying a plurality of shadow documents and any
5 references to any parent and child documents thereof.

6 20. The method of claim 18 further comprising:

7 (H) presenting graphical representations of a plurality of documents in a
8 manner which indicates relationships among the documents.